

## REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants once again note, *for the third time*, that an acknowledgment of the receipt of the Certified Copy of Japanese Priority Document 2003-093643 (filed March 23, 2004) has not been received. Accordingly, Applicants once again respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the receipt of this document by checking the appropriate box on the next communication from the Examiner.

As an additional preliminary matter, as discussed over the telephone with the Examiner on June 29, 2006, Claims 16-19, which were added in Amendment B, have not been examined. Accordingly, examination of new Claims 16-19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0225238 to Yamazaki. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed over the telephone with the Examiner on June 29, 2006, the Yamazaki reference is not a valid prior art reference under §102(e), or under any of the other sections of §102. Specifically, the Yamazaki reference is not prior art under §102(e) because its U.S. filing date of March 28, 2005 is not prior to the March 23, 2004 filing date of the present application. Accordingly, for at least this reason, withdrawal of this §102(e) rejection of Claims 1-15 is respectfully requested.

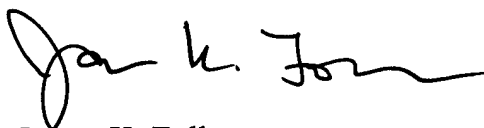
For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference

would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



James K. Folker

Registration No. 37,538

July 27, 2006  
300 South Wacker Drive  
Suite 2500  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 360-0080  
Customer No. 24978

P:\DOCS\1111\70127\AE8825.DOC